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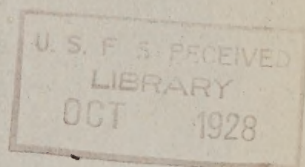
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FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH IN PICTURES

NO. 30

WOODEN WATER PIPE SOUND
AFTER MORE THAN CENTURY



FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY
U. S. FOREST SERVICE
MADISON, WISCONSIN

This photograph shows a half section of a piece of wooden water main received at the Forest Products Laboratory from Marylebone, England, where it was once in use. This piece of elm is still sound after having been under ground for between 150 and 200 years.

When wood is buried deeply in the earth or submerged in water, decay has no opportunity to develop because the air required for its growth is excluded. Although it may not be practicable to give wood durability equal to that of this buried water pipe by chemical means, the life of wood in service may be greatly extended by impregnation with a good preservative.

One-sixth of the 22 billion cubic feet of timber cut annually in this country goes to replace wood decayed in service.

(Photograph by Forest Products Laboratory, U. S. Forest Service)



